



14 August 2018



Our Ref: GIPA18/ [redacted]
Matter No: [redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Formal Access Application - Notice of Decision

I refer to your Formal Access Application under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (the GIPA Act), that you lodged with the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS). I note that you have requested access to a copy of the following information:

1. *"How much funding was provided to specialist domestic violence refuges for women experiencing domestic or family violence in NSW in:*
 - a. *2015-16 financial year*
 - b. *2016-17 financial year*
 - c. *2017-18 financial year"*.
2. *"How much money was spent on providing transitional accommodation for women experiencing domestic or family violence in NSW in:*
 - a. *2015-16 financial year*
 - b. *2016-17 financial year*
 - c. *2017-18 financial year"*.

I have carefully considered your request in view of the objectives of the GIPA Act where you have a legally enforceable right to obtain information, unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the subject information. Further, I have also considered the requirements of section 74 of the GIPA Act, which provides that an agency may delete information from a record to which access is provided if the deleted information is not relevant, or within the scope of the information applied for, or an agency has decided to refuse access to that information.

In deciding which information to withhold in full or in part, I was required to conduct a "public interest test" where the public interest considerations favouring disclosure of government information were weighed against those factors that do not favour disclosure. The following are a number of public interest factors I considered which favour disclosure of the information requested:

- Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to promote open discussion of public affairs, enhance Government accountability or contribute to positive and informed debate on issues of public importance.

- Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to inform the public about the operations of agencies and, in particular, their policies and practices for dealing with members of the public.
- Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to ensure effective oversight of the expenditure of public funds.
- Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to reveal the reason for a government decision and any background or contextual information that informed the decision.

Please be advised that I have liaised with the Commissioning division within FACS, in relation Points 1 and 2 of your access application, and will now respond to each point of your access application:

1. ***“How much funding was provided to specialist domestic violence refuges for women experiencing domestic or family violence in NSW in:***
 - ***2015-16 financial year***
 - ***2016-17 financial year***
 - ***2017-18 financial year.”***

Answer to Point 1:

The below table shows funding provided for each respective financial year to homelessness services that provide responses to women and children experiencing domestic and family violence (DFV), including women’s refuges.

	2015–16 financial year	2016–17 financial year	2017–18 financial year
DFV specific service packages, including women’s refuges	\$21.3m	\$22m	\$22.8m
Cross-target service packages that have a DFV response, including women’s refuges	\$36.1m	\$37.3m	\$38.8m
TOTAL funding for services that have refuges and provide responses to women experiencing DFV	\$57.4m	\$59.3m	\$61.6m

The range of packages includes women-only service packages that specifically or predominantly provide services to women with, or without, children experiencing DVF. It also includes cross-target service packages that provide multiple specialist responses with a specific focus, for example, a DFV specialist response, or a youth specialist response.

These services can be delivered through a property in the form of crisis accommodation, or a shopfront. This means that within the one service package, a specialist homelessness service provider can deliver a range of specialised services and responses through a number of outlets to meet the specific needs of multiple target groups.

2. ***“How much money was spent on providing transitional accommodation for women experiencing domestic or family violence in NSW in:***
 - a. ***2015-16 financial year***
 - b. ***2016-17 financial year***
 - c. ***2017-18 financial year”.***

Answer to Point 2:

Commissioning has advised that FACS provides transitional accommodation for all client groups through government owned properties managed by community housing providers, and properties that are leased directly from private landlords.

However, the department does not hold specific information on the amount of funding provided for transitional housing accommodation for women escaping DFV. Therefore, in accordance with section 58(1)(b) of the GIPA Act, FACS does not hold information that falls within the scope of Point 2 of your access application.

If you are aggrieved by any of the reviewable decisions in this notice of decision, you may seek a review under Part 5 of the GIPA Act, by requesting any one of the following:

- An internal review which must be lodged with the Right to Information Unit within 20 working days of this notice of decision. You must lodge your internal review at the address shown at the bottom of the first page and must be accompanied by the appropriate application fee of \$40.
- Alternatively, a request for an external review may be lodged with either the Information and Privacy Commission, or the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Please note that you must lodge your request for an external review within 8 weeks of this notice of decision.

Further attached is a receipt for the amount of \$30 which represents the application fee for processing your Formal Access Application.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact me on telephone (02) 8753 8386.

Yours sincerely



Rita Peci
Manager
Right to Information Unit
Department of Family and Community Services, Legal